

The Washington Herald
Published Every Morning in the Year by
The Washington Herald Company,
425-427-429 Eleventh St. N. E. Washington, D. C.
J. E. RICE President and General Manager
Phone: Main 3300—All Departments
SUBSCRIPTION RATES—BY CARRIER
In Washington and Vicinity
Daily and Sunday, 1 Month, 60c; 1 Year, \$7.20
SUBSCRIPTION BY MAIL IN ADVANCE
Daily and Sunday, 1 Month, 65c; 1 Year, \$7.50
Daily Only, 1 Month, 50c; 1 Year, \$6.00
Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations
ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES:
The Beckwith Special Agency
New York, World Building; Chicago, Tribune Building; St. Louis, Post-Dispatch Building; Detroit, Ford Building; Kansas City, Mo., Bryant Building; Atlanta, Ga., 1415 Atlanta Trust Building
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1921.

Mr. Harding has 250,000 jobs to give away. Have you picked yours?

The "Orphan Annie" Department.

The Agricultural Department of this government is no different in its organization, or rather lack of organization, from any other of the ten. But it is a good example of what is, but should not be.

Moreover, it should be the best organized, the most efficient and the best financed of all to get the limit of results for this country. It has been the "Orphan Annie" of the various administrations since its founding just over thirty years ago, it being the eighth of the departments.

Congress has given it just as little attention and support as was possible. When induced to add a new agency, this was dubbed on as a wart, without relation or working connection with any other activity, being given, also, just as small an appropriation as would keep breath in its body.

Gradually the department has come to consist of some fifteen bureaus and boards, wholly unrelated to each other in organization and operation, each distinct from the other and each with its own organization going along its own peaceful way as if none of the others existed.

Can any sane person tell why there should be a Bureau of Plant Industry with its pathologists and physiologists, a Bureau of Biological Survey and an Insecticide and Fungicide Board, separate and distinct from each other, unless to provide that many bureau heads?

Why should there be a Bureau of Animal Industry and one of Entomology? Why a Bureau of Soils and of Chemistry? Why a Bureau of Estimates soon to be consolidated with the Bureau of Markets, while leaving out of the combination the Bureau of Farm Management?

Instead of fifteen of these bodies there should be not to exceed five and these five should be co-ordinated as to exchange information and co-operate in their activities. At least in educational propaganda the field men could have a common service.

It is certain that if properly consolidated and correlated these bureaus, even with the present meagre appropriations, could do a far greater service with more thoroughness and accuracy. They could give far greater value with far more of satisfaction to the experts themselves who are now overburdened to get what already may be in some other than their particular bureau.

As organized, there is a maximum of false motion, or overlapping, of wasted effort and duplication, with a minimum of value in result. This is not the fault of the men in the department, but of the secretaries, present and past, and of Congress. What the farmers demand of the new Secretary is a "dirt farmer." What the department needs is a forceful, able, efficient organizer and administrator.

What it also needs is that sympathetic, effective interest from Congress which if not given will bring around its ears the thunders of the ballots cast in the rural sections.

Visit the woods or the barnyard and discover that the handsomest, best dressed birds have the least value.

It is estimated that Americans eat 8 per cent less meat than they did 20 years ago. That is really a remarkably small difference considering what meat costs as compared to the cost twenty years ago.

Forest Preservation.

This people have wasted their national inheritance like the most profligate son of unexpended wealth. No other resource has been more ingloriously stripped to the bone than the forests. If ever written, the story of our forest wealth will make that of "Coal Oil Johnny" seem tame and prosaic.

Those now living can remember great stretches of hardwood forests of maple, oak, hickory and what not, felled and burned to make way for the plow. There are still the worm fences made of walnut, hickory and other now almost precious woods.

This was bad enough but perhaps inevitable. The soil cleared was more valuable than the timber and there was no possible market at the time for the timber, with no promise of a market in the future which seemed to warrant its preservation.

But this excuse in no measure holds for the pine which was wasted almost as ruthlessly. The soil it covered was not needed. Often it was valueless. The clearing was in no instance made to make the soil available. Nor was the clearing done save in a way to get the most immediate money return.

Even this, however, might be excused to pioneer needs and conditions, had it not continued in large measure to this day. Pine will reforest itself, if permitted to do so and the young growth protected from fires.

Of late years whatever would make tooth-picks has been cut, leaving a barren waste, while slashings were and are left to become so inflammable that a stray cigar stub, a hastily emptied pipe, or a campfire not completely extinguished would start a menacing fire.

It is the young growth, not the adult trees, that feed forest fires. It is through these youngsters of the woods that a gale sends its tower-

ing sheet of flame which jumps broad acres of cleared ground, to the woods beyond. And once on its way nothing man can do can stop such a conflagration.

Today, then, forest preservation means just two things—reforestation and fire prevention; planting and preserving the young growth. The far more important of these is the latter and it can come only through eternal vigilance and relentlessly enforced laws.

A forest fire can only be stopped before it begins. It is a problem of putting out the little fires and of punishing every one who carelessly or wilfully leaves a fire, or needlessly starts one. It is a problem of endless, perpetual patrol on quiet days and windy days, on wet days and dry days.

No precautions are sufficient. These only help. Broad wind-breaks, lofty lookouts, airplane searching, telephone lines, and all else are but agencies of the patrol. It takes money and men, but above all a thorough and complete patrol organization, to preserve the young forests that they become real forests.

Is this worth the cost? The Forestry Bureau estimates that one-twenty of our population depends for a living on the forests and their products. So valuable has building timber become that all kinds of substitutes are being used. Just as fuel it has reached nearly prohibitive costs. Every old country, every scrap of forest history, tells that it is worth far more than it costs and that delay in a full and complete forest preservation organization but piles up the future cost.

The day is far distant, if it ever can come, when men can live without forests and their products.

Getting Ready to Pay.

Judging by the reception in Germany of the Allied Supreme Council's decision as to reparations, the Germans are preparing to accept it, provided the council stands pat. The German press is vocally hysterical over the amount fixed. It is called "fantastic," not to be considered, a mere pipe dream, an opium intoxication like that of "an Oriental who in that state dreams of the joys of Paradise."

This is temperamental exuberance, a sort of anti-toxine to prepare for accepting the inevitable. If the allied decision is final, the Germans will still use this sort of language with the added resignation of the martyr sent to the stake by fanatics who could not understand the purity and spiritual perfection of their victim.

The Germans will claim that held by the throat by wicked and vengeful foes, they have no choice, as indeed they will have none if the allies use the power the French, at least, are quite ready to provide. They will make collection as difficult as possible, delay payments as long as possible until they test the inevitable.

But once she yields and accepts the sentence, Germany will show she has lost none of her efficiency, her organized genius, her national industrial and commercial powers. She will pay, if she must, and save all she can, protesting at every step and compelling every possible concession.

But the Germany that will come from this ordeal will be commercially and industrially stronger in proportion than the Germany in 1914. She will be trained in thrift and economy, in skill and resourcefulness and in productive efficiency beyond what has been the high German standard.

She will not turn Bolshevik, nor indulge in serious revolution. She will not make a political alliance with the Soviets, but she will use them to keep the border states in turmoil and to reach into Russia economically and financially. She will not be a militarist enemy for years to come, but commercially she will be a foe worthy of her combined foes as she was in the war.

It is altogether probable, also, that the Supreme Council will make no material concessions. If they consent to further delays, to bickering and shilly-shallying, they may as well agree to let Germany fix the reparations to be paid, and to pay it when she gets good and ready. In all reason, they know this as well as does the on-looker.

If the forecasts are based on foreknowledge, it is probable that Mr. Harding's Cabinet will be highly satisfactory to the Democrats.

A Gold-Rubber Alloy.

Professor Irving Fisher, of Yale, advocates an elastic dollar. This would fill a long-felt desire on the part of the greatest number of the plain people. It has been, and still is very irksome to have a dollar non-stretchable to cover expense accounts and things wished for.

But from this point of view, it might be difficult to inject enough elasticity in the dollar to meet the demands. The more there might be, the more would be asked, until it might break in halves and be no better than Mr. Bryan's fifty-cent dollar of '96.

Dr. Fisher's proposal is to have the gold dollar vary in weight with what it would buy of a certain list of commodities. If these commodities would march along the commercial highways with a fairly reasonable lockstep, this might be feasible.

But if it had to quickstep, side-step, walk, run and hesitate with the market quotations, crop estimates, the weather, chinchbug and boll-weevil, it would have a nerve racking experience. The jazz of the markets lacks that rhythmic swing which makes prices move in harmony.

The market, also, having this new element, might use it to synopsize its usual music in a way the poor old gold dollar, used to its own steady gait, might find impossible. It is a beautiful idea, this making a gold-rubber alloy, but it hardly seems practical.

It has that radiant fascination which always attaches with striving for the unattainable and reaching for the just-beyond. It is a fine stretching exercise and is valuable as a mental set-up program. Yet it may be as simple as tomorrow to the initiated and those on the outside of today may need only to be shown.

We do not vouch for the truth of the story that an Alabama mule kicked an Alabama negro in the head and broke its leg, but we refuse to sympathize with the mule. It should have had more sense.

The State Department is apt to have more trouble with California than with Japan. The Californians seem to have decided that they will not accept anything to which Japan will agree.

Along with its many other accomplishments, the motor car has done more than all other agencies to permanently place Sunday on the out-of-doors, antiblue-law list.

Views Of Visitors in Washington
City's Guests Tell What the Nation Is Thinking

DALLAS ASPIRES TO BILLION-DOLLAR MARKET.

To make Dallas a billion-dollar wholesale center in 1921 is the laudable task to which Dallas boosters have set themselves, George Campbell Pomeroy, retired merchant of the Texas city, said at the Raleigh yesterday.

"In 1917 the wholesale trade of Dallas aggregated \$282,000,000," said Pomeroy. "In 1918, \$300,000,000; in 1919, \$415,000,000; while last year it reached \$600,000,000. If the billion-dollar mark is reached this year it will mean that the increase would have to be almost twice as great as it was in any year since 1917."

Pomeroy said that many merchants admit that it will be difficult to attain the goal set at a time when the level of prices is at the lowest since that of any of the last four years, and that viewed from the statistical standpoint it might appear impossible.

"It must be remembered, however, that the suggestion of statistics is considerably qualified by other circumstances," he explained. "The success of the undertaking will depend upon the luck of the farmers this year, both in the matter of the size of their crops and in the matter of prices they command. The state of the finance and industry of the country will be a governing factor, but given ordinarily fair conditions in these particulars I do not believe there is any formidable obstacle in the way of reaching this goal."

CITY IS ALREADY BIG TRADE CENTER.

Leaving statistics out of the matter entirely, Pomeroy continued, "let us consider the growth of industry and of population which gave the trade area of last year a larger absorptive power than it ever had before. The trade area of Dallas will be larger this year than it was last year. Another favoring circumstance is to be found in the number of wholesale institutions that have their home in Dallas. Dallas, because of the diversity and the number of its wholesale houses, will not only attract trade from a larger sphere, but will get a larger percentage of the trade of that sphere in which it has already established itself. Another fact that must operate to facilitate this project is that the farmers have a much larger percentage of last year's crops on hand than ever before. Their buying power is potentially much greater now than it has ever been at this season, with the result that this year's prosperity will be swelled by its inheritance of some of the deferred prosperity of last year."

Pomeroy declared that he was watching with interest the progress of the city's growth in the dispersing of public money he had observed here in Washington.

"Gov. N. O. Taylor, in his message to the State legislature the other day following the same line of thought," Pomeroy pointed out, "recommending the abolition of unnecessary boards and commissions, and estimating that this action would save the State \$100,000,000 per year, or 2 1/2 cents per capita of population per annum."

"What the governor is really striking at is duplication and overlapping in the State government. In these days of highly specialized administration, the State government is becoming burdened with special boards and commissions. Texas is no exception. The people are ever importuning the legislature to establish this board or that commission to take care of this or that interest. State legislatures, like our National Congress, are composed of individual units, who respond to the pressure of those who want something controlled or done. Their response is always in proportion to the publicity and influence of the people behind these projects."

SUGGESTS SURVEY TO CURTAIL EXPENSE.

"It is a cumulative process, this piling up of commission upon commission and board upon board until the administrative structure becomes a cumbrous and expensive one, with officials and clerks whose services might well be eliminated without any great impairment of the efficiency of the whole."

"The people of Texas have long suspected that this condition obtains at Austin and Gov. N. O. Taylor's recommendation is but the reflection of an opinion which has been growing steadily year after year. For many years there has been a demand for the abolition of useless offices and commissions, and now the governor has hit the nail squarely on the head."

"The legislature should institute a thorough and efficient survey at once in the line of Pomeroy's suggestion," he said. "The survey should be effected by the elimination of many of these unnecessary offices, which would perhaps be insignificant," said Pomeroy, "but the increase in efficiency would be great."

"Texas really has not an expensive State government compared with many States in the Union. The tax rate is low and would be lower if the assessed valuations represented the whole wealth of the State instead of 20 per cent of it. But duplicated government, having in mind Federal, State, county, municipal, precinct and district, brings up the total cost to a tidy sum."

F. W. G.

REVOLT IN ITALY.

SAYS ARTIST HERE

"With the exception of Russia no country in Europe has been rocked with so fierce a spirit of revolution as Italy."

This statement was made yesterday by Mrs. Adelaide Johns, American sculptress, who has spent many years in Italy and is bringing portrait busts of noted suffrage leaders for presentation to the Capitol State House.

"I believe the danger is past," continued Mrs. Johns, "and that Italy is slowly regaining economic strength and stability, although the conservatives are still plunged in despair."

"There is dire poverty and much unrest in Italy, due partly to the exchange situation. Carrara has a world business in statuary and is much better off than the rest of Italy. And yet one recent morning I was awakened with a shock like an earthquake and a deafening roar. The extremists had blown up and completely destroyed the principal bank of the place."

Surely Such Captains of Industry Ought Not to Be Exempt.

By Darling.



Scientific Notes and Comment

Calendar of Meetings; Activities of Societies in Washington.

Society of American Bacteriologists.

Washington branch, District Building, this evening, 8 o'clock. Papers on "Streptococci" by Maj. G. E. Walker, Miss Alice C. Evans, S. H. Ayers, Philip Rupp and C. S. Mudge.

Department of Agriculture, conference, co-operative extension work.

Today. Visits to the various laboratories of the department, with lectures, 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. Informal reception, secretary's office, 8 o'clock.

Medical Society Medical Building.

1718 M Street, this evening, 8 o'clock. Business meeting.

Washington Society of Engineers.

Evening session, 8 o'clock. "Naval Aviation: The Present Situation and Prospective Future Developments," by Capt. T. T. Craven, U. S. N.

SPANISH FLORA WOULD THRIVE IN AMERICA.

The flowers and plants of Spain would thrive just as well in the southwestern part of this country as they would in their own native land, Dr. Ivar Tidestrom told the Botanical Society at its meeting last night at the Cosmos Club. This is because the climate of the greater portion of Spain is dry and similar to that of the great Southwest.

"Because of the high elevation of the land surface above the sea-level, the proximity to Africa, the flora of the Iberian Peninsula is richer in species than any of the other floras of Europe," declared Dr. Tidestrom. The three floristic regions of Spain were compared with our Western regions. The palm belt was likened to Arizona and Central and Southern California along the coast. The plants of the southern parts of Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico were compared with those of the Spanish plateau flora, which is common to that of North Africa. The flora of the higher mountain ranges corresponds to the aspen and spruce belts of the Great Basin, he said.

Several new species of the Narcissus species, which he has adopted and cultivated, are natives of Spain and the Riviera. In Northern Spain, plantations of Lombardy poplars are being cultivated so as to supply both timber and pulp, the speaker said.

SIMPLE MAGNETO THEORY MAKES DESIGN EASIER.

No longer is it necessary to use differential equations of the fourth order to explain the theory of the operation of magnetos and induction coils. Dr. F. K. Silsbee, of the Bureau of Standards, as a result of work on many different types of ignition apparatus, has evolved a theory in which simple algebraic formulas can be used to give the voltage produced by a magneto under various conditions, such as those resulting from the presence of a low resistance carbon path across the spark plug insulation.

"Magneto coils used for ignition of gasoline engines are exceedingly complex types of electrical apparatus," he said, "and the staff meeting of the bureau, and due partially to the fact that the average user, and even automotive engineers, regard electricity as a mysterious phenomena, and partially to the fact that, before the war, the Germans had developed satisfactory apparatus empirically, no satisfactory simple explanation of their mode of operation has been developed in the past."

Measurements made in the bureau's laboratories show that the results obtained experimentally agree within 10 per cent with those computed by the new theory. This new theory will be of value to both designers and manufacturers of ignition apparatus.

W. D.

THE ALIEN PROBLEM

Immigration Expert Says Europe Striving to Retain Natives.

By RAYMOND G. CARROLL.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—Are we desirous of new immigration? Are the European countries in favor of an outflow of their already war-weary populations to the United States? These are serious questions uppermost in thinking minds upon both sides of the Atlantic. In the last century Europe has contributed more than 51,000,000 persons to American shores.

When Ellis Island is thronged with those anxious to enter as now, apprehensions arise in the ranks of organized labor. When that major clearing station is deserted, there are also apprehensions, but they are the apprehensions of those who employ labor and wonder from where we shall draw the toilers always needed to peopled the nooks and the lower rungs of the industrial ladder, places vacant by the steady rise in position in the working classes.

"Problem is Perpetual."

Miss Frances Keller, of this city, long a close student of our aliens and a close of "Immigration and the Future" says:

"Whatever immigration policies we adopt will affect Europe no less than this country, and between the two continents there are irreconcilable differences which will create constantly new situations to be adjusted."

Miss Keller continued, "Europe is now concerned with the separation of races, not with their amalgamation. Her tendency is to purify racial strains rather than to mix them. France, Germany, Italy, and even Belgium, are more than ever discouraging any participation in her internal affairs by other races. Belgium sends out nearly 400,000 immigrants a year in the second year of the armistice."

"Poland appeals to her emigrants to return. Czechoslovakia urges them to visit the homeland and to help build a new nation. Germany has established a special department to undertake the work of bringing her colonists back to the fatherland. From America alone nearly 400,000 immigrants left in the second year of the armistice."

"Upon the general subject of future immigration, Miss Keller says that she finds American opinion divided between the restrictionists and the liberal immigrationists. There are those who advocate the solution of the present problem by means of the admission of temporary labor," she added.

"They point out that America already needs workers; that in conditions of employment vary, and that the movements of men should be extremely fluid to meet the fluctuating demands of both production and markets. They hold even this 'fluid' of passage—those who come only to return—are desirable because on their return home they spread American ideas abroad and that will help America to extend its foreign markets."

Nearly \$1,000,000 is seeking rightful owners, the aggregate of 25,000 forgotten accounts in savings banks, trust companies and private banks in New York State. Every five years under the banking law the State banking department is required to publish a list of such accounts. It took thirty newspaper columns of space to tell the story of these 'lost' money' which, though claimants, is rolling up interest and being used by the financial institutions in the run of their business.

Many of the 'dead' accounts go back fifty years, some even antedating the civil war. The majority of the accounts are, as a matter of fact, small in amount. Their existence is ascribable to change of residence, death without heirs, and possibly in some a deliberate concealment, the deposits having been made by persons who changed their names or desired to drop out of sight.

Inquiry at several of the banks

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Opinions of Other Editors

Brief Comment From Leading Newspapers Throughout Nation

(New York Herald.)

While in this fortunate land we deck our homes with Christmas wreaths 2,500,000 children are dying from starvation in Europe. These are not sturdy beggars enviously seeking to live without labor on the toil of others. These are not shiftless loafers, who might earn their bread in the sweat of their face but will not. They are heirs of misery to whom Fate denied the privilege of dying in the great war and from whom Nature withheld the power and right to toll in peace.

(Boston Post.)

There is more than the saving of the lives of 2,500,000 European children from starvation during the coming winter in Herbert Hoover's appeal for help. This gigantic Christian charity has probably nothing that equals it in the world's history, and such a grand spectacle is in the hearts of mankind. Yet this is not all.

(New York Times.)

The work of the European Relief Council, which is literally saving a generation in Austria and Poland and is giving valuable assistance elsewhere, may loosely be called a philanthropy. Without food relief extended by more fortunate countries, and largely by America, the bottom would literally have dropped out of civilization in regions where for 1,000 years European culture has flourished. The worst of the danger is past, and the organizers of this movement believe that the next few months will enable Central Europe to become self-supporting, though on a lower scale than before the war.

(Philadelphia Public Ledger.)

It is a remarkable thing that a great many wealthy persons came to a banquet of great worth 22 cents a plate and subscribed over \$2,000,000. It is also remarkable that "little children saying grace" in Oregon, or Texas or Maine are wrapped in a shroud of paper round their pennies and sending them to other children. If we elders stinted ourselves of luxurious superfluities as in childhood's sunny hour our juniors deny themselves, there is no doubt of the speedy collection of the whole of the \$2,000,000. "When it is a charity, that looks like 'an awful lot.' When it is for our insatiable appetites, it looks like comparatively little."

(Philadelphia Record.)

Statistical evidence of the desperate condition of Vienna is afforded by the fact that the death of infants in the first half of 1920 were one-third greater than the number of births. There were about 15,000 births and 20,000 infant deaths. It is an appalling record, and the infant deaths do not include 2,474 deaths of children above infancy, but under 1 year old. A quarter of all the deaths in the city were due to tuberculosis. Underfeeding, of course, predisposes persons to the "white plague."

was made. The officials talked were inclined to belittle the size of the accounts. One vice president admitted that there were quite a number under \$1,000 and that there were several of \$2,000 and more.

Superintendent McLaughlin, of the banking department, said concerning the lost accounts in savings banks:

"Most of the accounts are not large—the savings of persons of small means." I advise against the hiring of lawyers by heirs to get the money out. All that is necessary is for those interested to present their claims to me and our office will assist them in getting the money, provided they are entitled to it and have the proofs of relationship or direct ownership."

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Open Court Letters to The Herald

Other Folks' Views on Topics of Current Interest

Writers of communications for publication in the Open Court are requested to make their contributions 200 words or less.

DECLARES PROHIBITION ISSUE BY NO MEANS DEAD.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald: John Barleycorn, deceased, seems reluctant to give up the ghost. With perhaps one-half of our population pointing with pride and the other half viewing with contempt we have the spectacle of much intemperate language in the discussion of this "dead issue."

Solomon was right. "Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." (Prov. 23:33). And then: "Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more." (Prov. 31:6-7).

With the kind permission of the editor, I desire to quote from a recent editorial in the Baltimore Sun: "The very fact that prohibition has aroused a spirit of bitterness and resentment and bitterness on both sides, might fairly be considered by the philosophic mind as an argument against its unworkability, as no issue since before the civil war has thrown the country into two such hostile camps of its kind."

Only is the new political radical parties, from all parts of the nation, of national power, but it has provoked such an outburst of revolt as has never before been witnessed in this country, a revolt confined to the political sphere, but it has spread to the social sphere. In other words, it must be recognized by all who discuss this question as an extraordinary situation which will have to be weighed calmly on its constitutional and practical merits, not solely as an attacked simply in a spirit of hysterical passion."

F. M. OTTENGILL, Greenville, Tenn. Jan. 28.

REPLIES TO MR. SWEENEY'S QUERY.